

Serial No.: 10/765,708
Examiner: Loren C. Edwards
Title: EXHAUST ASSEMBLY
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An exhaust assembly for a marine genset, the exhaust assembly comprising:
 - an exhaust manifold configured to emit cooling water and exhaust gases from a combustion engine; and
 - a sound-dampening device configured to be coupled between the exhaust manifold and a muffler, the sound-dampening device including a tubular member having an inner diameter and two or more distinct rings located on the inner diameter of the tubular member; each of the rings being defined by two spaced apart radially inwardly projecting walls having surfaces positioned substantially perpendicular to a flow of the cooling water and exhaust gases; each of the rings having a generally circular each ring having an inner surface exposed exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the tubular member, the inner surface of each of the rings having a substantially uniform inner diameter which defines an opening therethrough, wherein the opening is unobstructed, the radially inwardly projecting walls constricting rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of the cooling water with the exhaust gases to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously presented) The exhaust assembly of claim 1, wherein the tubular member is flexible and is configured to be connected between the exhaust manifold and directly to the muffler, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tubular member and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the tubular member.

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4. (Previously presented) The exhaust assembly of claim 1, wherein the tubular member is rigid and is connectable between the exhaust manifold and an exhaust hose connected to the muffler, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the tubular member and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the tubular member.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Currently amended) An exhaust apparatus for a marine genset, comprising:
a flexible exhaust tubular member configured to be connected between an exhaust manifold of a combustion engine and a muffler, the flexible exhaust tubular member having an inner diameter; and
two or more distinct rings located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust tubular member, each of the rings being defined by two spaced apart radially inwardly projecting walls having surfaces positioned substantially perpendicular to a flow of cooling water and exhaust gases emitted from a combustion engine, each of the rings ~~each ring~~ having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust tubular member and a generally circular an inner surface having a substantially uniform an inner diameter that defines an opening therethrough, wherein the opening is unobstructed smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust tubular member, each of the inner surfaces of the rings being exposed ~~exposing~~ directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the exhaust tubular member, the radially inwardly projecting walls constricting rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of cooling water with exhaust gases to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine,
the inner diameter of each of the rings being sized to be at least 25% smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust tubular member to provide additional constriction of the exhaust gas passageway.

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7. (Previously presented) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the two or more rings are evenly spaced about 4-1/2 inches apart from each other along a length of the flexible exhaust tubular member.

8. (Previously presented) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible exhaust tubular member has an outer diameter of about 2 inches.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously presented) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the length of the flexible exhaust tubular member is about 6 feet or less.

11. (Currently amended) An exhaust apparatus for a marine genset, comprising:
a rigid tubular member having a first end connectable to an exhaust outlet of a combustion engine, the tubular member including an inner diameter, the inner diameter having at least two distinct rings mounted thereto, each of the rings being defined by two spaced apart radially inwardly projecting walls having surfaces positioned substantially

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